

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. 1. An integrated intercom and security system comprising:  
a local integrated intercom and security system, said local system including,  
a plurality of user interfaces each user interface including a two-way audio communication system and a visual display; and  
a central communication station operatively connected to and in communication with all of said user interfaces; and  
a remote communication unit in real time communication with said local system via a globally accessible communication network.
2. An integrated intercom and security system according to claim 1, wherein said remote communication unit is capable of communicating with said local system for the purpose of performing diagnostics.
3. An integrated intercom and security system according to claim 1, wherein said remote communication unit is capable of sending messages to said user interfaces.
4. An integrated intercom and security system according to claim 3, wherein said remote communication unit is capable of sending messages to a selected one of said user interfaces.
5. An integrated intercom and security system according to claim 3, wherein said remote communication unit is capable of sending messages to a selected number of said user interfaces.

6. An integrated intercom and security system according to claim 1, wherein each user interface includes a feature for storing messages.

7. An integrated intercom and security system according to claim 1, wherein said messages are textual.

8. An integrated intercom and security system according to claim 1, wherein said central communication system is capable of sending a message to a selected one of said user interfaces.

9. An integrated intercom and security system according to claim 1, wherein said central communication system is capable of sending a message to a selected group of said user interfaces.

10. An integrated intercom and security system according to claim 8, wherein said message is textual.

11. An integrated intercom and security system according to claim 9, wherein said message is textual.

12. An integrated intercom and security system according to claim 1, wherein each said user interface is capable of sending a message to said central communication unit.

13. An integrated intercom and security system according to claim 12, wherein said message is an audio message.

14. An integrated intercom and security system according to claim 12, wherein said message is a textual message.

15. An integrated intercom and security system according to claim 12, wherein said message includes a request for a service.

16. An integrated intercom and security system according to claim 12, wherein each said user interface includes a feature for sending an emergency message to said central communication unit, and further comprising a feature for sending auxiliary information along with said emergency message.

17. An integrated intercom and security system according to claim 16, wherein said auxiliary information includes a name of a contact person.

18. An integrated intercom and security system according to claim 1, further comprising at least one peripheral device in communication with each of said user interfaces.

19. An integrated intercom and security system according to claim 18, wherein said peripheral device is a smoke detector.

20. An integrated intercom and security system according to claim 19, wherein said central communication unit is adapted to receive a message from each smoke detector associated with each user interface.

21. An integrated intercom and security system according to claim 18, wherein said peripheral device is an intrusion alarm.

22. An integrated intercom and security system according to claim 21, wherein said central communication unit is adapted to receive a message from each intrusion associated with each user interface.

23. An integrated intercom and security system according to claim 1, further comprising a feature for video messaging.

24. An integrated intercom and security system comprising:  
a plurality of user interfaces each user interface each associated with a residential unit, each said user interface including a two-way audio communication system and a visual display; and  
a security system operatively connected to each of said user interfaces, said security system including, a plurality of cameras, each camera being disposed to capture images from a distinct zone;  
wherein each user interface is operatively connected to each of said cameras to receive images from each of said zone.

25. An integrated intercom and security system according to claim 24, wherein each visual display in each user interface is capable of displaying images from more than one zone.

26. An integrated intercom and security system according to claim 24, wherein each visual display in each user interface is capable of displaying images from up to four zones.

27. An integrated intercom and security system according to claim 24, further comprising a remote door lock, said door being adapted to open upon receiving a message from a user interface.

28. An integrated intercom and security system according to claim 24, further comprising an electronic directory, said electronic directory including a public display feature for displaying information, wherein said information displayable by said public display is limited to names associated with each unit.